

Message Text

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S/S;;ESTEINER
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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 242994 TOSEC 280068

EXDIS TO SECRETARY FROM ARA SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINR, JM

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: HOW TO REACT TO JAMAICAN
FACILITATION OF AGEE DESTABILIZATION CHARGES (S/S7620465)

1. THE PROBLEM: AMBASSADOR GERARD HAS RECOMMENDED THAT
WE CALL HIM HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS AS A SIGNAL OF OUR
DISPLEASURE OVER MANLEY'S APPARENT USE OF PHILIP AGEE
TO BUTRESS HIS ACCUSATIONS THAT WE ARE DESTABILIZING
JAMAICA.

2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS: OUR KINGSTON EMBASSY BELIEVES
THAT THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT FACILITATED AND EXPLOITED THE
RECENT AGEE VISIT TO JAMAICA, APPARENTLY IN THE BELIEF THAT
AGEE'S DESTABILIZATION CHARGES WOULD HELP THE GOVERNMENT
WIN THE UPCOMING ELECTION -- OR AT LEAST JUSTIFY MEASURES
TO RIG THE ELECTION. MANLEY MAY TRY TO KEEP THE DESTABILI-
ZATION CHARGE ALIVE DURING HIS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

THE MOST RECENT EMBASSY VIEWS AND ANALYSIS ARE CONTAINED
IN KINGSTON'S 4183, BEING REPEATED TO YOU SEPARATELY.
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THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT FOR THE MOMENT THE BEST COURSE
IS TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE, WHILE SIGNALING OUR CONCERN BY
CALLING OUR AMBASSADOR HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS.

WE ALSO HAVE A LETTER FROM JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON TO YOU, COMPLAINING ABOUT ALLEGED RUMORS BEING SPREAD BY US TOURIST AGENTS, TO THE EFFECT THAT JAMAICA IS UNSAFE FOR TOURISTS. THOMPSON ALSO COMPLAINS IN THE SAME LETTER ABOUT OUR DECISION TO PAY A "HARDSHIP ALLOWANCE" TO US EMPLOYEES IN JAMAICA.

THE PRESIDENT, ACTING ON A MEMO FROM YOU, AGREED TO REVERSE HIS PREVIOUSLY NEGATIVE DECISION ON CONTINUATION OF A PL-480 PROGRAM FOR JAMAICA. THIS DECISION WAS CONVEYED TO THE GOJ AND IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN JAMAICA.

3. THE OPTIONS:

1) TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION AT THIS TIME. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION WILL SERVE AS AN EARNEST OF OUR DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS, THE EMBASSY'S DEMARCHES (MADE SHORTLY AFTER AGEE'S CHARGES) AS A SUFFICIENT INDICATION OF US CONCERN OVER THE AGEE VISIT AND THE DESTABILIZATION THEME IN GENERAL.

PRO:

-- THIS COURSE LEAVES ALL OUR FUTURE OPTIONS OPEN.

-- THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION SHOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GOJ TO TAKE ANY IMMEDIATE HOSTILE ACTION AGAINST THE USG. A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL ATTITUDE ON OUR PART WOULD LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR THE GOJ TO MOVE TOWARD MORE NORMAL, LESS HOSTILE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE USG.

CON:

-- WE NEED TO CONVEY TO THE GOJ OUR CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE NAMED BY AGEE.

-- IF WE WANT TO EMPLOY A CARROT AND STICK STRATEGY, THE
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PL-480 DECISION IS THE CARROT. A STICK IS ALSO NEEDED.

2) CONVEY OUR CONCERN TO THE GOJ BY CALLING OUR AMBASSADOR HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS.

PRO:

-- CALLING THE AMBASSADOR HOME IS A SIGNAL OF CONCERN, BUT CANNOT BE READ AS A HOSTILE ACTION.

-- ON HIS RETURN, THE AMBASSADOR CAN CONVEY TO THE GOJ WHATEVER MESSAGE IS APPROPRIATE AT THAT TIME.

CON:

CALLING THE AMBASSADOR HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS IS NOT A PARTICULARLY STRONG SIGNAL OF US DISAPPROVAL.

3) IN ADDITION TO CALLING THE AMBASSADOR HOME ON CONSULTATIONS, RESPOND TO THOMPSON'S LETTER WITH A STATEMENT OF CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF OUR PERSONNEL IN THE WAKE OF THE AGEE VISIT.

PRO:

-- IS A STRONGER EXPRESSION OF US CONCERN AND DISAPPROVAL. COUPLED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, IT CONVEYS A MESSAGE OF US WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL TOGETHER WITH DISAPPROVAL OF JAMAICAN TACTICS.

-- WOULD PUT THE GOJ ON NOTICE THAT YOU HOLD THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR PEOPLE IN THE HOSTILE SITUATION WHICH THE GOJ HAS CREATED.

CON:

-- MIGHT START AN UNNECESSARY PUBLIC QUARREL IF THOMPSON AND MANLEY CHOOSE TO USE YOUR LETTER IN THAT FASHION.

4. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU APPROVE OPTION 3, CALL OUR AMBASSADOR HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS AND SEND A LETTER TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN MINISTER THOMPSON EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF OUR PEOPLE IN JAMAICA.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

(IF YOU APPROVE THIS OPTION, A SUGGESTED LETTER TO THOMPSON IS ATTACHED AT TAB 1.)

ALTERNATIVELY, THAT YOU APPROVE OPTION 2, CALL OUR AMBASSADOR HOME ON CONSULTATIONS.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

ALTERNATIVELY, THAT YOU APPROVE OPTION 1, TAKING NO FURTHER ACTION AT THIS TIME.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

ATTACHMENTS: 1. RESPONSE TO THOMPSON AND 2. THOMPSON'S LETTER.

1. DEAR DUDLEY: I WAS PLEASED TO GET YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 30, INASMUCH AS I BELIEVE YOUR CONCERNS ARE

DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE "DESTABILIZATION" QUESTION WE DISCUSSED IN SANTIAGO.

I HAVE FOLLOWED REPORTS OF THE RECENT VISIT TO JAMAICA OF MR. PHILIP AGEE. HIS VISIT RESULTED IN INTENSE AND WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY ABOUT ALLEGED UNITED STATES "DESTABILIZATION" EFFORTS IN JAMAICA. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, I AM SURE, THAT WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THESE CHARGES -- AND THE HOSTILE ATMOSPHERE WHICH THEY COULD CREATE -- MAY SERVE NOT ONLY TO UNDERMINE OUR RELATIONS WITH JAMAICA, BUT ALSO PUT INTO JEOPARDY THE SAFETY AND PROPERTY OF AMERICANS WORKING AND TRAVELING IN YOUR COUNTRY.

I TRUST THAT YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF AMERICANS IN JAMAICA, PARTICULARLY OFFICIAL PERSONNEL, AND MOST ESPECIALLY THOSE NAMED BY MR. AGEE.

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AS FOR THE "DESTABILIZATION" ISSUE ITSELF, I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU ARE IN NO DOUBT ABOUT MY POSITION. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SEEKS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH JAMAICA AND HAS DONE NOTHING TO "DESTABILIZE" YOUR GOVERNMENT. AS I INDICATED TO YOU IN OUR LAST MEETING, WE ALSO STAND READY TO INVESTIGATE ANY EVIDENCE YOU MAY HAVE THAT PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS OR RESIDENTS MAY BE ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AGAINST YOUR GOVERNMENT.

AS REGARDS THE SPECIFIC ITEMS MENTIONED IN YOUR LETTER, YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT IN OBSERVING THAT NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOR ANY OTHER UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AGENCY CAN CONTROL WHAT THE PRIVATE TRAVEL AGENCIES TELL THEIR CUSTOMERS. WHEN INQUIRIES ARE MADE TO US, WE DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP AMERICAN CITIZENS DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FACT AND FICTION. THIS SHOULD HELP TO SPIKE THE RUMORS WHICH WORRY YOU.

YOU ALSO MENTIONED PRESS REPORTS ABOUT A STATE DEPARTMENT DECISION TO DESIGNATE JAMAICA AS A "HARDSHIP AREA". THOSE PRESS REPORTS EVIDENTLY REFER TO ALLOWANCES, CALLED POST DIFFERENTIALS, WHICH ARE PAID TO US EMPLOYEES AT MOST OF OUR EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF POSTS IN THE CARIBBEAN. IN NO CASE IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIFFERENTIAL TO BE TAKEN AS A COMMENT ON THE COUNTRY CONCERNED. IT IS INTENDED SOLELY TO COMPENSATE OUR EMPLOYEES FOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FOREIGN ENVIRONMENT AND THAT TO WHICH THEY ARE ACCUSTOMED IN THE UNITED STATES.

LET ME SAY AGAIN, DUDLEY, WE SEEK ONLY FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH YOUR COUNTRY. I STAND READY, AS

ALWAYS, TO CONSIDER WITH YOU HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO THAT END. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER.

2. 30TH AUGUST, 1976. MY DEAR HENRY, SOME TIME AGO, YOU AUTHORISED ME TO WRITE DIRECTLY TO YOU ON MATTERS IN WHICH I THOUGHT YOU COULD HELP. I TAKE THE LIBERTY TO DO SO NOW.

THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT MISCONCEPTIONS, GREAT AND GROSS EXAGGERATIONS CONCERNING JAMAICA'S IMAGE ABROAD, CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE DOING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO OUR TOURIST TRADE. I KNOW THAT THERE IS MORE THAN ONE REASON FOR THIS, BUT ONE WAY IN WHICH I BELIEVE YOU CAN HELP, IS BY USING YOUR INFLUENCE TO PREVENT THE AIRLINE ASSOCIATIONS AND TRAVEL AGENTS FROM SPREADING FALSE RUMOURS AGAINST JAMAICA. THEY ARE IN FACT TURNING AWAY WOULD-BE APPLICANTS DIRECTLY, AND THIS IS DONE DAILY BY SUCH TALES AS, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, "IF YOU WISH TO GO TO JAMAICA AGAINST MY ADVICE, I ADVISE YOU NOT TO GO NEAR THE MOUNTAINS AS THERE ARE GUERRILLAS FIGHTING THERE"; "IN JAMAICA YOU WILL FIND CUBAN POLICE AND SOLDIERS ALL OVER THE PLACE"; "THAT PLACE IS A POWDER KEG READY TO BURST OUT IN REVOLUTION". I HAVE SELECTED THESE, AS THEY WERE ACTUAL STATEMENTS BY TRAVEL AGENTS TO TOURISTS WHO CAME HERE. WE HAVE HAD LECTURES AND WE HAVE INVITED VISITORS, INCLUDING TRAVEL AGENTS, TO SEE THE FACTS AS THEY ARE, BUT APPARENTLY TO NO EFFECT.

ANOTHER MATTER THAT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE UNFORTUNATE TIMING OF AN ARTICLE, ADVERTISED FULLY IN OUR LOCAL NEWS-PAPERS, IN WHICH THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS DESCRIBED JAMAICA AS A "HARDSHIP AREA"; ESPECIALLY AS SOME OF THE GROUNDS GIVEN ARE:

A) INCREASE IN THE RATE OF CRIME (WHICH IS NOW DOWN TO 25 OF WHAT IT USED TO BE, AND IT IS QUITE NORMAL EVER SINCE THE STATE OF EMERGENCY);

B) LACK OF VARIETY IN ENTERTAINMENT;

ON THIS I WOULD POINT OUT THAT OUR CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL - CARIFESTA - WHICH WAS A REMARKABLE SUCCESS, SAW VISITORS FROM OVER TWENTY NATIONS, OVER THE PERIOD OF A WEEK, WITHOUT ANY INCIDENT AND ALL THIS DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY, WHICH IS HARDLY VISIBLE. MAY I POINT OUT TOO, THAT THERE ARE MORE PLAYS AND ENTERTAINMENT BEING PUT ON IN JAMAICA NOW, THAN AT ANY TIME IN OUR HISTORY, LITTLE AS THAT MAY BE

C) CLIMATIC DIFFERENCES;

D) INADEQUATE HOUSING AND EXHORBITANT RENT;

E) RESTRICTIONS ON FOOD AND DRINK.

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I CANNOT HELP BUT THINK AND EXPRESS TO YOU IN FULL SINCERITY AND CONFIDENCE, THAT YOU ARE BEING MISINFORMED AS TO THE STATE OF TRANQUILITY IN JAMAICA WHICH IS NO LESS THAN WHEN YOU HAD YOUR HOLIDAY WITH US.

I DO HOPE YOU WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS. I KNOW THE TRAVEL AGENTS ARE NOT UNDER YOUR CONTROL BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WHEN THEY DAMAGE OUR INTEREST THEY DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN US, ALTHOUGH THERE IS CLEARLY NO ILL FEELING BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS, AND CERTAINLY NOT BETWEEN OURSELVES.

KINDEST REGARDS, YOURS SINCERELY, DUDLEY THOMPSON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. DRAFTED: ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER:MMS; CLEARED: S:DPASSAGE

ROBINSON

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